



# U.S. House of Representatives Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono

Serving Hawaii's 2nd District

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## April Legislative Update

In mid-April, I voted against the FY2011 Appropriations Act (H.R. 1473) and the FY2012 budget plan introduced by Republican leadership and commonly known as the Ryan Budget (H.Con.Res. 34), because we should focus on employment opportunities to strengthen our economy, not on massive funding cuts as exemplified by the Ryan Budget. My priorities are to create jobs, support struggling families, and invest in education, research & development, and infrastructure to secure a strong economic future.

The FY2011 Appropriations Act was signed into law on April 15, 2011.

### How will the FY2011 Appropriations Act affect...

#### ...Recovery from Tsunami Damage?

Under this act, **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant** funding is reduced by 50 percent. Hawaii's counties sustaining tsunami damage were eligible for this funding following the Presidential Disaster Declaration.

*"This compromise bill asks working- and middle-class Americans to bear the brunt of the budget cuts without asking the wealthiest Americans to do the same. Where is the shared sacrifice? Where is the aloha?"*

--CONGRESSWOMAN MAZIE HIRONO

#### ...Clean Drinking Water?

- Reduces allocations to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by almost \$1 billion. **Hawaii's Clean Water State Revolving Fund** will be cut by \$4.4 million.
- Eliminates the **Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations program**, one of the only federal programs available for flood prevention and watershed development programs in rural communities. This will greatly impact projects on Maui and Hawaii Island.

#### ...Health Care? Job Creation? Education?

The legislation slashes funding to:

- **Community Health Centers**
- **Workforce Training Programs**
- **Law Enforcement Grants**
- **Programs for Low-Income College Students**



Congresswoman Hirono listens as Wally Lau, Hawaii County deputy managing director, describes the path of the tsunami surge on March 11, 2011.

I always welcome your comments. To send me feedback, please mail this cutout to my Hawaii Office:  
5104 Prince Kuhio Federal Bldg., 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96850

What do you think are the best ways to balance the budget responsibly?

- ☐ End the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- ☐ Repeal the Bush tax cuts for millionaires.
- ☐ Make big corporations pay their fair share of taxes.
- ☐ Cut Medicare and Social Security.
- ☐ Create new jobs to increase the tax base.
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you prefer to hear about legislation and my work in Congress?

- ☐ Telephone Town Halls
- ☐ Newsletters
- ☐ MaziEmails (electronic newsletters)
- ☐ Website and social networking
- ☐ Town Hall Meetings
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ryan Budget Ends Medicare As We Know It.

The Ryan Budget, named after its author Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), helps the “haves” at the expense of everyone else. Under the Ryan Budget, the wealthiest Americans and special interest groups will receive permanent tax cuts. Big Oil companies will get tens of billions of dollars in subsidies. The \$4 trillion in proposed tax cuts will be paid for by the working and middle class.

### Medicare And Medicaid Under The Ryan Budget

- Medicare will be privatized. Everyone currently under age 55 would not receive Medicare as we know it, but would receive vouchers.
- Seniors will have to seek out and buy their own health insurance.
- Vouchers offer limited options, fewer choice of doctors, and would probably lead to rationed care.
- Vouchers fail to cover the cost of seniors’ care. According to the Congressional Budget Office, seniors will receive \$8,000 to buy health insurance. The estimated cost of buying a private plan equal to Medicare will be over \$20,000, making seniors pay double in health expenses.
- The eligible age to receive Medicare would be raised from 65 to 67 years old.
- Hawaii will lose \$2.8 billion in federal Medicaid dollars

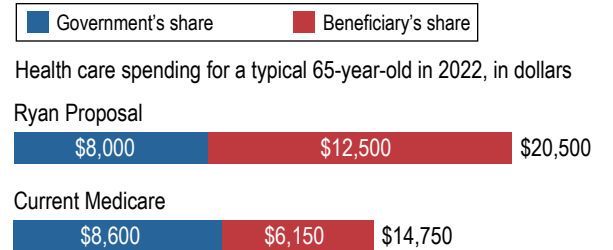
over ten years. This means that 29,600 seniors and 161,500 children could lose their Medicaid coverage or see reduced benefits.

#### Ryan Budget REPEALS:

- The gradual elimination of the Medicare “donut hole” in prescription drug coverage.
- 50% discount on brand-name drugs for seniors.
- Free access to key preventive services and annual checkups. More than 48 million seniors with Medicare, including 208,500 in Hawaii, will have to pay more if they want regular check-ups.



Ryan Proposal Would Double Health Care Spending of Typical 65-Year-Old



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

### Ryan Budget Hurts Our Children and Students

This legislation will drastically cut food programs for children, Head Start, and child care for working families. It proposes the largest cuts in the history of Pell Grants. It cuts college aid for nearly 10 million students, slashing the maximum Pell Grant award by more than \$2,500 from the current \$5,500, reaching its lowest level in more than a decade. In my district, this will affect the more than 15,000 students receiving Pell Grants for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Congresswoman Hirono voted against the Ryan Budget. However, it was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 15, 2011 and now goes to the U.S. Senate for further consideration.

To sign up for MaziEmail updates or my Federal Grants Newsletter, visit my website: [www.hirono.house.gov](http://www.hirono.house.gov).

Please use the space below to share additional comments or feedback.

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